Application No.: 10/688,027

3

Docket No.: 249212025400

P. 4

## REMARKS

Applicants make this Preliminary Amendment prior to examination and without prejudice or disclaimer of any excluded subject matter, and expressly reserve the right to pursue such subject matter in this application or in one or more continuing applications.

If a telephone call would further prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (415) 268-7000.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to <u>Deposit</u>

<u>Account No. 03-1952</u> referencing docket no. <u>249212025400</u>. However, the Assistant

Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: January 8, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Peter I Vim

Registration No. 44,417

Morrison & Foerster LLP

425 Market Street

San Francisco, California 94105-2482

Telephone: (415) 268-7000 Facsimile: (415) 268-7522